

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are presently active in this application, Claim 1 having been amended and Claim 3 and 8-18 canceled by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1, 2, 4 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawahara et al (U.S. Pat. 6,101,085), Claims 5-7 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawahara et al in view of Jacob et al (U.S. Pat. 6,724,026), and Claim 3 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, and in order to expedite issuance of a patent from the present application, Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable Claim 3, thereby effectively placing Claim 3 in independent form and overcoming the outstanding grounds for rejection. Claim 4 has been amended to correct a minor informality. Further, to place this application in condition for formal allowance, restricted non-elected Claims 8-18 have been canceled.

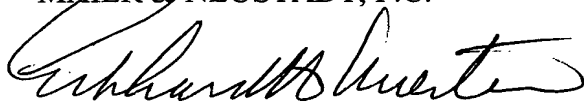
Accordingly, in view of the indication of allowable subject matter, no further issues

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are outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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